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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 29, 1996, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1996

The Senate met at 11:30 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we thank You for the gift of imagination that You have entrusted to us. With our imaginations You have enabled us to form, hold, and achieve images of what You can make possible. Coupled with the gifts of hope and expectation, You help us imagine Your best for us and for our Nation.

Now at the beginning of this new day, we form and hold a positive picture of this Chamber filled with Your presence. Knowing that we are accountable to You for every thought that we think and word that we speak, we contemplate how we should act and react under the guidance of Your spirit. We hold the image of how You want us to relate to each other as fellow Americans who believe in You and want Your vision for our Nation. We sense the civility and the greatness of character You want from us. Help us to express to others the same kindness, graciousness, and respect that we have received from You.

So renew our dedication to You. We are daughters and sons in Your eternal and inclusive family, and in loyalty to You we commit ourselves to work for Your glory and the good of our beloved Nation. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able and acting majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. The Senate will be in for a period of morning business today until the hour of 1 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each. The Senate may also consider any legislative or executive items cleared for action. However, there will be no rollcall votes today.

As a reminder to all Senators, the next rollcall vote will occur on Tuesday, June 4, at 2:15 p.m. and be on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1635, the Defend America Act. When the Senate completes its business today, it will stand in adjournment for the Memorial Day recess until Monday, June 3.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I observe the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT, WELFARE REFORM, AND THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, since the American people put the Republicans in control of Congress, I think there has been a consensus—Democrats, Independents, Republicans—that we should balance the budget. We have succeeded now in making a balanced budget, which is supported by 80-some percent of the American people, a national priority. Perhaps no policy is more important than the personal economic future of Americans, the future of our children and the future of our Nation.

Last year, under Republican leadership, Congress did pass a budget that would be in balance by the year 2002. President Clinton vetoed that budget and denied America the brighter future that would have resulted in higher standards of living, more real economic growth, lower interest rates, reducing what Americans will pay for home mortgages, car loans, and student loans, and an increase in the savings rates, higher productivity, and relief from the crushing burden of debt.

But notwithstanding that, the President and his allies in and out of Congress who talk about a balanced budget say we ought to have a balanced budget. They may have a different way to arrive at one. So I think there is a fairly strong consensus at least that we should balance the budget. We just have not been able to come together on how we do that. We have tried private negotiations at the White House with myself and the Speaker and the majority leader in the House. They went on

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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